



◀ Airman 1st Class Ashley Baker configures the mission systems.



LINKING GLOBAL WARFIGHTERS

2 units combine for strat comm

By 2nd Lt. Christopher Horner
55th Strategic Communications Squadron

OFFUTT AFB, Neb. — Two squadrons made history here as they combined to form the 55th Strategic Communications Squadron. It's currently the only squadron in Air Combat Command responsible for communications supporting the entire strategic warning, alert and launch process, to include missile warning, integrated threat warning, attack assessment and emergency action messaging.

The squadron's purpose is to provide command, control, communications and computers in support of USSTRATCOM as well as four other combatant commands, seven major commands and 34 wings. The communications we provide enable

USSTRATCOM, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense and other decision makers to act on any intercontinental threats that may appear against the United States at any time.

Leading the new squadron is Maj. Joseph Scherrer, former commander of the 55th Computer Systems Squadron. The other unit to combine was the 755th Communications Squadron. The combining of the squadrons took place due to an A-76 study four years ago, according to Col. R. F. Wright, Jr., 55th Communications Group commander.

"As [the study] evolved, we assessed manpower losses, organization effectiveness and efficiency, and supporting newly assigned missions at USSTRATCOM. The synergy became apparent, so

we decided to combine the [units] to better support USSTRATCOM. It presented a good opportunity to re-look at how we're supporting our stakeholders, and how we could organize it better," he said.

Major Scherrer added, "It's just now sinking in what a tremendous honor it is to be a part of a change that impacts the fabric of the Air Force. It's also very humbling. We are actually making Air Force history, and that's pretty awesome ... I've been in for 15 years, and they're the most professional, most dedicated and most inspiring Airmen I've ever worked with. We're going to have 202 Airmen, civilians and contractors all working together as a unified team to fulfill our new squadron's motto, 'Linking Global Warfighters.' We're proud to be providing a vital part of our nation's defense."



▲ Scope command antennas.
▶ SACCS main-frame equipment.
▶▶ Defense Satellite Communications System dish.

